

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GABORO 02742 041625Z

ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 /019 W

-----053416 041713Z /47

P 041254Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0975

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS GABORONE 2742

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, BC

SUBJECT: FOOT AND MOUTH OUTBREAK IN BOTSWANA

1. NOVEMBER 4 DAILY NEWS ARTICLE (POUCHED TO ADDRESSEE POSTS) REPORTS OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN NOKANENG AREA OF NGAMILAND, IN NORTH WESTERN PART OF BOTSWANA. ARTICLE DESCRIBES ENERGETIC EFFORTS OF VETERINARY SERVICES DEPT. TO CONTROL THE OUTBREAK WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, IS THE FIRST OUTBREAK IN BOTSWANA SINCE 1965 AND SINCE 1963 IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA. LAST RECORDED CASE OF FOOT AND MOUTH IN BOTSWANA WAS IN 1968. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE DETAILED INVESTIGATION STILL UNDERWAY TO DETERMINE NUMBER OF CATTLE INVOLVED AND PRECISELY WHERE THEY ARE.

2. COMMENT: OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE AT A WHEN BOTSWANA IS ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE ITS BEEF EXPORT. AS

DEPARTMENT AWARE, USG CURRENTLY STUDYING GOB REQUEST FOR VISIT OF U.S. VETERINARY INSPECTION TEAM TO DETERMINE WHETHER U.S. WILL ACCEPT MEAT FROM BOTSWANA. AT SAME TIME, WITH A VIEW TO ENTERING THE GERMAN AND FRENCH MARKETS, GOB INITIATED AND IS RECEIVING A SIMILAR VISIT THIS MONTH FROM VETERINARY TEAM REPRESENTING NINE COUNTRIES. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE AS MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE CONCERNING SIZE OF OUTBREAK.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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